(a) whether it is a fact that a number of pharmaceutical companies are marketing different brands based on the same active pharmaceutical ingredients to escape the provisions of drug price control order;

(b) if so, what are the names of the companies which have changed the brand names of the same active Pharmaceuticals ingredients, during the last three years year-wise to avoid monitoring of their sales by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in the matter in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The prices of 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 195) and the formulations based thereon are regulated in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO' 95, which are being administered through the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

NPPA has noticed that some manufacturers, without any reasons, change the ingredients of their brands to escape price control. The following formulations of which brand names have been changed by the companies to escape provisions of price control:

1. Cetrizet-D, marketed by M/s Sun Pharmaceuticals Limited.
2. Normet, marketed by M/s Emcure Pharma Ltd.
3. Brakke Suspension, marketed by M/s Franco Indian.

NPPA have requested to Drug Controller General (I) to take action so that this type of misuse is restricted.

Delay in process of price control of essential medicines

583. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a much awaited decision on price control of essential medicines under new pharmaceutical policy got further delayed due to the objection raised by Health Ministry to parts of proposed policy;

(b) if so, whether a Group of Ministers met in May, 2008 to take a final decision on pricing issue but outcome remained inconclusive;

(c) if so, what were the main objections raised by Health Ministry;

(d) to what extent they have been agreed;

(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(f) by when drug price control is to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (f) The Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted and has held four meetings so far on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008. In the meeting held on 30.4.2008, GOM asked the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to sort out the issue of overlapping

proposals in the Draft Policy. The overlapping issues between the two Departments have been resolved and the Chairman of the GOM has been informed accordingly. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy can only be taken after GOM takes a decision in this regard.

Durgapur fertilizer plant

584. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Matrix Group has submitted a proposal to set up brown field ammonia - urea complex at closed Durgapur Plant of M/s. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A proposal has been recently received in the Department of Fertilizers from M/s. Matix Group for establishment of a brown field Ammonia/Urea Complex of one million metric tonne per annum (1Mn.MTPA) capacity based on coal bed methane gas (CBM gas) which is under examination. It is not feasible to give the Government's reaction thereon at this stage.

Supply of fertilizers to Andhra Pradesh

585. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS-AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of chemicals and fertilizers supplied to each state especially Andhra Pradesh during rabi and other period;

(b) the demands actually asked by each State especially Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The cumulative requirement, availability and sales of Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2008-09 (April, 2008 to January, 2009) are as under:

(In lakh metric tones)

Fertilizers	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Urea	24.90	22.95	22.50
DAP	8.07	9.76	9.76
MOP	5.30	5.20	5.05
Complex fertilizers	19.41	15.52	15.38

As can be seen that availability of Urea, DAP and MOP is comfortable. There is some tightness in availability of complex fertilizers (NPK) because of low level of indigenous production and also as these can not be imported. The State-wise cumulative requirement, availability and sales of Urea, DAP, MOP and complex fertilizers during the year 2008-09 (April, 2008 to January, 2009) are at Statement.